especially in rural India. Under the scheme it is proposed to construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor.

* Indira Awas Yojana is the flagship rural housing scheme for weaker sections. The allocation is being increased from Rs. 2500 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 2750 crore in BE 2005-06. About 15 lakh houses will be constructed during the year—2005-06.

DFID's assistance to control poverty

2816. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) has provided an assistance of Rs. 3,661 crore for various projects in India to control poverty; and

(b) if so, out of the above, how much amount has been given to Orissa to control poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There are 25 on-going projects, directly or indirectly linked with poverty alleviation, including projects in the social sectors, for which Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of United Kingdom has committed development assistance of 1018 million pounds (approx. Rs. 8,150 crores). Out of this, an amount of 112 million pounds (approx. Rs. 900 crores) is towards such projects in the State sector for the State of Orissa. In addition, Orissa is also getting support under the central sector projects for poverty alleviation and social sectors for which DFID is providing development assistance.

Adverse impact of budgetary proposals on senior citizens and pensioners

2817. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his pragmatic tax proposals for 2005-06 have